WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A purified polypeptide selected in the group comprising the following peptides :

MSP3a: 167-YEKAKNAYQKANQAVLKAKEASSYD-191 (SEQ ID No: 11),
MSP3b: 184-AKEASSYDYILGWEFGGGVPEHKKEEN-210 (SEQ ID No: 12),
MSP3c: 203-PEHKKEENMLSHLYVSSKDKENISKEND-230 (SEQ ID No: 13),
MSP3d: 211-MLSHLYVSSKDKENISKENDDVLDEKEEEAEETEEEELEEK-251 (SEQ ID No: 14), and
combinations thereof.

2. A long synthetic or recombinant polypeptide comprising epitopes contained within a MSP-3a peptide (SEQ ID No: 11), a MSP-3b peptide (SEQ ID No: 12), a MSP-3c peptide (SEQ ID No: 13), or a MSP-3d peptide (SEQ ID No: 14) and combinations of said peptides.

3. An immunogenic composition comprising as an immunogen a long synthetic or recombinant peptide comprising epitopes contained within a MSP-3b peptide (SEQ ID No: 12), a MSP-3c peptide (SEQ ID No: 13), or a MSP-3d peptide (SEQ ID No: 14) and combinations of said peptides.

4. A vaccine against malaria comprising a long synthetic or recombinant peptide comprising epitopes contained within a MSP-3b peptide (SEQ ID No: 12), a MSP-3c peptide (SEQ ID No: 13), or a MSP-3d peptide (SEQ ID No: 14) or combinations of said peptides, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

5. The immunogenic composition of claim 3 or the vaccine of claim 4, wherein said long synthetic or recombinant peptide further comprises the epitopes contained within a MSP-3a peptide (SEQ ID No: 11).

6. The immunogenic composition of claim 3 or the vaccine of claim 4, which is formulated for subcutaneous injection.

7. The immunogenic composition or the vaccine of claim 6, comprising between 3 µg and 100 µg of a long synthetic peptide per injection dose.

8. The immunogenic composition of claim 3, further comprising Alum and/or Montanide as an adjuvant.

9. The vaccine of claim 4, wherein said pharmaceutically acceptable carrier comprises Alum and/or Montanide.

10. A monoclonal antibody directed against a polypeptide according to claim 1 or claim 2.

11. A composition of purified polyclonal antibodies directed against a polypeptide according to claim 1 or claim 2.

12. A pharmaceutical composition comprising antibodies according to claim 10 or claim 11.

13. A method for immunizing against malaria an individual or a mammal that can contract malaria, comprising the step of administering to this individual or mammal in need of such immunization the immunogenic composition of claim 3 or the vaccine of claim 4.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein said immunogenic composition or vaccine is administered via subcutaneous injection.

15. The method of claim 8, wherein said administration comprises two or three injections of said immunogenic composition or vaccine.

16. A method for *in vitro* evaluation of a premunition state against malaria in an individual or a mammal that can contract malaria who has been immunized according to the method of claim 7, comprising the step of putting in contact a sample taken from said individual with a native MSP-3 protein from *Plasmodium falciparum*, under conditions suitable for binding between said MSP-3 protein and antibodies present in the sample; and detecting the binding of said native MSP-3 with antibodies present in the sample, which is indicative of a premunition state.

17. A method for *in vitro* prognosis of the fate of a cerebral malaria patient, comprising measuring the level of anti-MSP-3 IgG3 and/or IgG1 antibodies and the serum of said patient; and correlating a low level of said IgG3 and/or IgG1 anti-MSP-3 antibodies with the possibility that the patient may not be saved only by quinine treatment.

18. A method for treating a cerebral malaria patient in need thereof, comprising administering to said patient anti-MSP-3 IgG3 or IgG1 antibodies.

19. A method for treating a cerebral malaria patient in need thereof, comprising administering to said patient a pharmaceutical composition according to claim 12.

20. A method for lowering the parasitemia in a malarial patient in need thereof, comprising administering to said patient anti-MSP-3 IgG3 or IgG1 antibodies or both.

21. A method for lowering the parasitemia in a malarial patient in need thereof, comprising administering to said patient a pharmaceutical composition according to claim 12.

22. The method of claim 18 or claim 20, wherein said antibodies are directed against the MSP-3b peptide (SEQ ID No: 12), the MSP-3c peptide (SEQ ID No: 13), or the MSP-3d peptide (SEQ ID No: 14) or against several of these peptides.

23. The method of claim 20, wherein said antibody is an IgG3.

24. A kit for the *in vitro* control of a premunition state against malaria in an individual who has been immunized against it, comprising a native MSP-3 protein from *Plasmodium falciparum*, a medium suitable for formation of an antigen-antibody complex, and reagents for detection of the antigen-antibody complex.